



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 6, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released May 7, 2012, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. Some much needed rain fell throughout most of the state last week that slowed field work. Farm activities for the week included manure spreading, spraying, and planting. Spring plowing is 87% complete, which is well ahead of the 25% reported at this time last year and the 5-year average of 63%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1 | 17 | 67 | 15 |

Crop Progress: Corn planting continued and is 33% complete, ahead of 7% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 30%. Barley is 96% headed, which is ahead of last year's 40%, and the average of 42%. Barley is 29% yellow, which is ahead of last year's 4%, and the average of 2%. Winter wheat is 28% headed, ahead of 17% at this time last year, and the average of 14%. This year's oat crop is 97% planted, ahead of 25% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 72%. Oats are 72% emerged, compared with 8% last year and the average of 34%. Soybean planting continues and is 10% complete, compared to 0% at this time last year, and the 5-year average of 7%. Tobacco beds are 100% planted, ahead of 96% last year, and the average of 89%. Potatoes are 57% planted, compared to last year's 7%, and the average of 27%. The first cutting of alfalfa has begun, and is 10% complete, compared with last year's 2% and the average of 4%.

Crop Condition: State-wide winter wheat conditions are; 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 53% good, and 25% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 3% poor, 39% fair, 40% good, and 18% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are; 0% very poor, 6% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 12% excellent. Timothy/clover conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 28% fair, 54% good, and 13% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 0% poor, 74% fair, 26% good and 0% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 5% very poor, 9% poor, 33% fair, 34% good and 19% excellent. Peach conditions are; 2% very poor, 3% poor, 20% fair, 34% good, and 41% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 26% fair, 51% good, and 22% excellent.

Nationwide as of April 29, 2012: Warmer-than-normal weather from the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains provided

favorable growing conditions for developing small grains and row crops, and promoted rapid field work during the week. Elsewhere, temperatures were well below average in portions of the Northeast, where fruit producers were evaluating their crops for damage from late-week freezes. Increased precipitation in many regions benefited growing crops. Conversely, much of the Southeast remained dry, compounding the effects of abnormally low soil moisture levels.

Corn: As favorable weather conditions prevailed, producers continued to plant this year's corn crop at a blistering pace. Progress advanced 20 percentage points or more in half of the estimating states during the week. By April 29, fifty-three percent of the corn was planted, 41 percentage points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting progress was 21 percentage points or more ahead of normal in seven of the top ten producing states. Nationally, 15 percent of the corn crop was emerged by week's end, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. Soybeans: By week's end, 12 percent of the soybean crop was planted. This was 10 percentage points ahead of last year, 7 points ahead of the 5-year average, and the quickest pace on record. Planting was just underway in some locations, while dry, sunny weather provided producers in Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi ample time for double-digit progress during the week. Winter Wheat: Fifty-four percent of the 2012 winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by week's end, 25 percentage points ahead of last year and 30 points ahead of the 5-year average. Warmer-than-normal weather pushed crop development in many regions well ahead of normal. Overall, 64 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up slightly from last week and 30 percentage points better than the same time last year. Rainfall in portions of the Great Plains benefited the growing crop. Small Grains: Oat producers had seeded 89 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 38 percentage points ahead of last year and 23 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures and favorable soil moisture conditions promoted double-digit emergence during the week in all estimating states except Texas, where emergence was complete. By April 29, emergence was 69 percent complete 28 percentage points ahead of last year and 22 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 73 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Station | Last Week Weather Summary | | | | | | April 1 - May 6, 2012 | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------------|------|-----------------------|-------|------|--------------|-----|----------|
| | Temperature | | | DFN | Precipitation | | Precipitation | | | GDD Base 50F | | Base 40F |
| | High | Low | Average | | Total | Days | Total | DFN | Days | Total | DFN | Total |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erie | 84 | 36 | 60 | 8 | 1.22 | 3 | 2.68 | -1.19 | 14 | 144 | 80 | 337 |
| Franklin_AG | 86 | 32 | 62 | 11 | 0.44 | 4 | 2.16 | -2.06 | 15 | 135 | 72 | 327 |
| Meadville-Port | 86 | 38 | 63 | 12 | 1.33 | 5 | 2.81 | -1.16 | 15 | 162 | 114 | 368 |
| Clarion | 87 | 26 | 62 | 9 | 0.58 | 3 | 2.69 | -1.70 | 14 | 129 | 49 | 304 |
| Springboro | 86 | 25 | 61 | 9 | 1.24 | 5 | 2.92 | -0.84 | 17 | 125 | 56 | 285 |
| Warren | 87 | 27 | 59 | 8 | 1.92 | 5 | 3.92 | -0.34 | 17 | 120 | 66 | 296 |
| North Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bradford Region | 83 | 24 | 59 | 11 | 1.72 | 4 | 3.19 | -0.92 | 14 | 122 | 91 | 286 |
| Oswayo | 84 | 20 | 56 | 6 | 0.77 | 4 | 3.00 | -0.82 | 13 | 80 | 38 | 205 |
| Kane | 81 | 22 | 57 | 9 | 2.18 | 5 | 4.28 | -0.08 | 16 | 89 | 60 | 229 |
| Laporte | 78 | 30 | 55 | 3 | 1.95 | 5 | 4.72 | 0.71 | 15 | 93 | 19 | 260 |
| Lock Haven | 84 | 29 | 62 | 9 | 1.76 | 5 | 3.19 | -0.56 | 16 | 160 | 78 | 418 |
| Coudersport_1SW | 84 | 23 | 57 | 7 | 1.87 | 5 | 3.85 | 0.03 | 18 | 93 | 51 | 228 |
| Renovo | 88 | 30 | 62 | 8 | 2.20 | 5 | 3.76 | 0.01 | 16 | 152 | 70 | 401 |
| Ridgway | 85 | 24 | 60 | 10 | 0.94 | 5 | 2.51 | -1.72 | 15 | 108 | 71 | 287 |
| Stevenson Dam | 88 | 28 | 62 | 13 | 2.21 | 5 | 3.88 | -0.35 | 14 | 141 | 104 | 373 |
| Towanda | 83 | 28 | 58 | 6 | 0.38 | 5 | 2.91 | -0.67 | 14 | 118 | 44 | 311 |
| Wellsboro | 83 | 26 | 57 | 9 | 0.54 | 4 | 2.71 | -0.22 | 13 | 101 | 68 | 264 |
| Williamsport | 86 | 30 | 62 | 7 | 0.77 | 5 | 2.63 | -1.31 | 15 | 197 | 83 | 468 |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawley | 81 | 26 | 55 | 4 | 0.97 | 4 | 2.50 | -1.68 | 13 | 97 | 54 | 271 |
| Wilkes-Barre/Sc | 80 | 30 | 60 | 6 | 0.61 | 4 | 3.14 | -0.51 | 15 | 173 | 83 | 405 |
| Susquehanna | 78 | 27 | 55 | 6 | 1.16 | 4 | 3.88 | -0.50 | 14 | 101 | 65 | 282 |
| West Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Butler | 88 | 28 | 66 | 13 | 0.54 | 3 | 2.17 | -1.76 | 13 | 165 | 86 | 393 |
| New Castle | 90 | 29 | 66 | 13 | 0.73 | 4 | 1.68 | -1.98 | 13 | 167 | 100 | 405 |
| Slippery Rock | 88 | 30 | 65 | 13 | 0.94 | 3 | 2.38 | -1.42 | 11 | 163 | 105 | 395 |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Altoona/Blair | 85 | 39 | 65 | 11 | 0.87 | 3 | 1.74 | -2.09 | 11 | 219 | 116 | 489 |
| DuBois | 84 | 34 | 63 | 10 | 0.85 | 4 | 2.03 | -2.04 | 14 | 155 | 93 | 364 |
| Lewistown | 88 | 34 | 63 | 8 | 0.34 | 4 | 2.20 | -1.49 | 15 | 192 | 63 | 484 |
| Middletown | 81 | 35 | 63 | 6 | 0.85 | 4 | 2.73 | -1.32 | 13 | 227 | 74 | 540 |
| Prince Gallitzi | 84 | 29 | 63 | 11 | 0.88 | 6 | 2.27 | -2.88 | 12 | 141 | 84 | 358 |
| Selinsgrove | 80 | 30 | 60 | 6 | 0.98 | 5 | 2.90 | -0.98 | 14 | 150 | 50 | 403 |
| State College | 86 | 36 | 64 | 10 | 0.57 | 4 | 2.08 | -1.48 | 16 | 175 | 88 | 433 |
| East Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allentown-Bethel | 82 | 30 | 60 | 5 | 0.67 | 4 | 3.61 | -0.71 | 11 | 194 | 76 | 480 |
| Lehighton | 80 | 32 | 57 | 2 | 1.37 | 5 | 3.61 | -0.50 | 11 | 137 | 27 | 390 |
| Matamoras | 78 | 31 | 56 | 2 | 1.14 | 5 | 3.86 | -0.96 | 12 | 122 | 35 | 378 |
| Mt_Pocono | 77 | 32 | 57 | 9 | 1.15 | 6 | 3.90 | -1.06 | 15 | 135 | 106 | 341 |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh/Alle | 86 | 46 | 69 | 14 | 0.63 | 3 | 2.25 | -1.77 | 14 | 232 | 128 | 511 |
| Indiana_PA | 84 | 41 | 66 | 12 | 1.01 | 6 | 2.80 | -1.66 | 15 | 190 | 90 | 427 |
| Myersdale | 82 | 31 | 61 | 9 | 1.19 | 5 | 2.66 | -2.14 | 14 | 116 | 39 | 313 |
| Chalk_Hill | 86 | 37 | 65 | 10 | 1.39 | 6 | 4.45 | -0.15 | 17 | 157 | 34 | 361 |
| Pittsburgh Intl | 87 | 46 | 69 | 14 | 1.18 | 3 | 2.46 | -1.35 | 14 | 238 | 121 | 508 |
| Connellsville | 86 | 35 | 67 | 12 | 1.74 | 5 | 4.16 | -0.44 | 14 | 201 | 78 | 481 |
| Waynesburg | 87 | 35 | 67 | 13 | 1.42 | 5 | 2.68 | -1.51 | 13 | 179 | 87 | 437 |
| South Central | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biglerville | 84 | 36 | 62 | 5 | 0.35 | 4 | 2.75 | -1.34 | 14 | 201 | 48 | 501 |
| Everett | 87 | 30 | 63 | 9 | 1.40 | 5 | 3.19 | -0.88 | 14 | 166 | 75 | 413 |
| Hanover | 82 | 33 | 62 | 5 | 0.79 | 5 | 3.79 | -0.30 | 15 | 188 | 35 | 477 |
| Harrisburg_AP | 83 | 35 | 64 | 6 | 1.12 | 5 | 3.25 | -0.80 | 14 | 249 | 93 | 564 |
| South Mountain | 81 | 33 | 61 | 6 | 0.68 | 5 | 3.55 | -0.28 | 15 | 140 | 41 | 383 |
| York | 81 | 31 | 62 | 4 | 0.83 | 5 | 3.63 | -0.69 | 16 | 187 | 29 | 461 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Lane | 80 | 34 | 59 | 3 | 0.81 | 5 | 3.90 | -0.62 | 13 | 174 | 66 | 474 |
| Hamburg | 81 | 34 | 59 | 5 | 1.15 | 5 | 3.22 | -1.53 | 12 | 163 | 83 | 450 |
| West_Chester | 80 | 30 | 59 | 2 | 1.50 | 3 | 4.56 | -0.13 | 8 | 174 | 28 | 452 |
| Lancaster | 81 | 32 | 61 | 5 | 0.71 | 4 | 2.56 | -1.60 | 13 | 199 | 78 | 488 |
| Neshaminy Falls | 82 | 32 | 59 | 4 | 0.63 | 4 | 3.49 | -1.38 | 12 | 186 | 68 | 504 |
| New Holland | 84 | 39 | 63 | 7 | 1.20 | 5 | 3.79 | -0.37 | 12 | 217 | 96 | 539 |
| Philadelphia | 80 | 43 | 61 | 3 | 0.49 | 4 | 3.04 | -1.33 | 9 | 263 | 91 | 602 |
| Philadelphia NE | 82 | 36 | 60 | 1 | 0.58 | 4 | 2.92 | -1.45 | 11 | 216 | 44 | 536 |
| Reading | 84 | 34 | 62 | 7 | 0.67 | 5 | 2.61 | -2.06 | 11 | 233 | 126 | 541 |
| Sellersville | 82 | 30 | 57 | 2 | 1.23 | 5 | 4.39 | -0.13 | 11 | 148 | 40 | 407 |
| Doylestown_AG | 82 | 32 | 58 | 3 | 1.16 | 5 | 4.36 | -0.51 | 13 | 182 | 64 | 485 |

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney

Producers continue to plant corn and soybeans when ground conditions are right. Some corn planted during the past few weeks is starting to come through the soil, but needs some heat. Haylage and small grains for forage were being cut last week. Most of the crops so far have been short due to weather conditions. Wheat and barley are now getting taller. Fruit growers are still concerned about the weather conditions. No apple blossoms are left for the Annual Apple Blossom Festival this weekend.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Showers have continued to improve moisture levels. It is a bit early to gauge apple set, but it appears that most varieties will have a commercial crop.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

We had heavy thunderstorms last week, with over an inch rain in less than 2 hours. Oat planting is about complete. We are ready to plant corn and potatoes if weather permits.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Some showers helped get things greened up.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

The beginning of the week started off with decent weather for field work, but it changed quickly with the heavy rains on Tuesday. Weekend weather was sunny and hot, sending equipment back out into the fields. Small grains appear to be completed. Quite a bit of corn has been planted. Pasture conditions have finally started to take off after the rains and warmer weather.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

The grape crop was affected once again with a low temperature of 24 degrees. Primary buds were out a couple of inches are now black. Secondary buds were also affected. Producers are reporting significant damage from the recent frosts and freezes to their blueberries and strawberries, as well as their peach, cherry and apple orchards.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Light showers and the return to warm temperatures aided in pasture growth, but slowed hay making. Even with the showers, corn got planted and is now further along than most years. Fruit is showing variations according to variety and location, but does not look like a disaster year.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Early planted sweet corn, oats, field corn and garden crops really improved after our one half inch of rain on Friday. Our area is still behind in normal rainfall for April and May. Farmers were able to get back in the fields shortly after the rain with a little sunshine.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Rainfall in the range of one to two inches, along with warmer temperatures has made a significant difference in the crops. However, there are some emergence issues with the early planted corn. The wheat is heading and looks good. The main activities for the week were planting, spraying, fertilizing and spreading manure.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney

Some corn was planted as well as manure and fertilizer being spread. Haying equipment is being prepped. Livestock have been turned out to pasture.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes

After the snow was melted, we are already facing dry conditions. There was good corn planting weather. Hay ground needs a good shot of rain to progress. New seedings had rain. Emergence looks good. More moisture will make for a good first cutting. It was a great week to farm.

UNION COUNTY, James Brubaker

It is hard to believe we went from dry to much too wet in a few days. We need some drying days, so we can plant again.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Crop | Current Week | Last Year | 5-Year Average |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Spring plowing | 87 | 25 | 63 |
| Corn, planted | 33 | 7 | 30 |
| Barley, heading or headed | 96 | 40 | 42 |
| Barley, turning yellow | 29 | 4 | 2 |
| Wheat, heading or headed | 28 | 17 | 14 |
| Oats, planted | 97 | 25 | 72 |
| Oats, emerged | 72 | 8 | 34 |
| Soybeans, planted | 10 | 0 | 7 |
| Tobacco beds, planted | 100 | 96 | 89 |
| Potatoes, planted | 57 | 7 | 27 |
| Alfalfa, 1st cutting | 10 | 2 | 4 |

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 6, 2012

| Crop | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Wheat | 1 | 3 | 18 | 53 | 25 |
| Oats | 0 | 3 | 39 | 40 | 18 |
| Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand | 0 | 6 | 27 | 55 | 12 |
| Timothy clover stand | 0 | 5 | 28 | 54 | 13 |
| Quality of hay made | 0 | 0 | 74 | 26 | 0 |
| Pasture | 5 | 9 | 33 | 34 | 19 |
| Peaches | 2 | 3 | 20 | 34 | 41 |
| Apples | 1 | 0 | 26 | 51 | 22 |

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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